

Later on 16 August, the Taliban offered to help remove civilians from the airfield. RADM Vasely accepted the Taliban's offer, and Taliban forces began clearing and securing the airfield (exhibits 15, 18, 21, 23). The addition of these three forces was sufficient to clear the runway and resume flight operations (exhibits 15, 18).

(iii) Once the perimeter was reestablished on 16 and 17 August, the Taliban took the South, the NSU took the North and West, and 1/82nd took the West and overall security responsibilities (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 103). JTF-CR continued to manage the flow of combat forces into HKIA and into the line to hold the tenuous status quo (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 103). Force flow over the next two days delivered the remainder of the 1/82 IBCT, all of the 24th MEU Command Element, the remainder of 1/8 Marines, the MEU Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB), 2/1 Marines with enablers from the CENTCOM SPMAGTF, and the TAC of the 82nd Airborne Division (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 100, 102, 104, 121, 125). JTF-CR had TACON of all forces providing security of HKIA until 17 August, when Gen McKenzie, CENTCOM Commander, tasked the 82nd Airborne Division with security of HKIA (exhibits 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 238). The JTF-CR retained sole responsibility of NEO tasks and duties (exhibits 10, 11, 15, 18, 138, 238).

(d) During the execution of NEO, the JTF-CR managed three critical tasks at the JTF level or through its subordinate units: Gate Operations, ECC, and the Multi-National Coordination Cell (exhibits 15, 17, 18).

(i) After being relieved of airfield security duties, 1/8 Marines (24th MEU) occupied North and East Gates, and 2/1 Marines (SPMAGTF) occupied Abbey Gate (exhibits 53, 103). From 19–26 August, these gates were used to process and screen tens of thousands of civilian evacuees (exhibits 15, 18). Commanders at each gate exercised their authority to open or close their respective gates, as they deemed appropriate, according to the situation on the ground (exhibits 15, 53, 103). The JTF-CR Commander retained the authority to reopen a gate if the gate commander had closed it due to the threat environment or possible attack (exhibits 15, 18, 103). However, there was tremendous pressure from the strategic level (Combatant Command (CCMD), Joint Staff (JS), White House) to continue to process and evacuate civilians to the maximum extent possible, so gate closures were done rarely, locally, and temporarily (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 56, 77, 103, 121). For example, Abbey Gate did not physically close until the night of 26 August (exhibit 53). JTF-CR's management of gate operations also entailed reacting to the overwhelming number of special requests to secure specific evacuees from gates (exhibits 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22). Members of the USFOR-A FWD, JTF-CR, MEU, 1/8, and 2/1 staffs were constantly engaged in retrieving specially requested individuals from the gates, with the lower echelons doing so on behalf of JTF-CR (exhibits 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 76, 108, 122).

(ii) The JTF-CR Commander was responsible for deciding when to close Abbey Gate to facilitate the Joint Tactical Exfiltration (JTE) (exhibits 13, 15, 17, 18, 22). Initially, the JTF-CR sought to close the gate on the evening of 25 August (exhibits 18, 53, 77, 89, 126). However, U.K. Forces were still operating at the Barron Hotel and could not meet this timeline (exhibits 15, 18, 53, 77, 89, 126.). If the JTF-CR Commander decided to close Abbey Gate while U.K. Forces were still processing evacuees, it would have isolated them at the Barron Hotel. This would have affected the JTE, as the JTF-CR Commander estimated it would take 24–48 hours to clear the outer corridor and facilitate

U.K. Forces' passage of lines into HKIA (exhibits 15, 18). Additionally, if the JTF-CR closed Abbey Gate early, the crowds likely would have breached the airfield, which posed a significant risk to mission and risk to force (exhibits 15, 18).

(iii) The 24th MEU established the ECC at the passenger (PAX) Terminal in North HKIA (exhibits 15, 18, 100, 101, 102). Evacuees waiting for flights consistently saturated this area, creating a security concern (exhibits 100, 101). As a result, JTF-CR tasked subordinate units to provide security forces at the PAX Terminal to ensure evacuees did not attempt to board the wrong flights or move into the compounds on North HKIA (exhibits 15, 18, 101).

(iv) As the lead for NEO, JTF-CR hosted the MNCC (exhibits 18, 21, 145). At the MNCC, JTF-CR coordinated the requirements of the multi-national partners to evacuate personnel (exhibits 18, 21). This usually included manifesting flights and coordinating appropriate arrival destinations based on the status of evacuees (exhibits 18, 21).

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO IGOR BABAILOV

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, each year, the Ellis Island Honors Society recognizes individuals who have proved their commitment to our Nation through outstanding achievement in industry, education, entertainment, and the arts.

Today, I have the honor of congratulating my friend and fellow Tennessean Igor Babailov, one of this year's recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Igor has earned a very special place in American culture through his work in philanthropy and the arts. A celebrated portraitist, he has immortalized on canvas Presidents, dignitaries, royalty, and even three Popes, and earned the trust of the world's most important curators. His philanthropic endeavors have changed the lives of veterans and helped children realize their full potential.

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Igor and thank him for using his talents to make America a more diverse, innovative, and beautiful place to call home.●

### TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ROGERS

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it is my honor to congratulate Coach Lamar Rogers of Clarkrange, TN, on winning the Fred Russell Lifetime Achievement Award and joining the distinguished ranks of the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame.

Over the course of his long career, he has enriched the lives of young female athletes by helping them reach their highest potential. For 46 years, Coach Rogers has served as the architect of one of the most impressive and well-respected girls basketball programs in the Volunteer State, boasting a 1,289–290 record and eight Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

State championships. He is also revered—and feared—as the winningest high school girls basketball coach in Tennessee.

But more importantly, he is a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to the next generation of athletes and educators, and I consider it my privilege to recognize him for his leadership. Congratulations, Coach.●

### TRIBUTE TO ADOLPH L. “BOB” HIRSCH

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Mr. Adolph “Bob” Hirsch, a remarkable man and World War II veteran who turns 100 on July 23, 2022.

In September 1942, at the age of 20, Mr. Hirsch enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He would go on to attain the rank of seaman first class, serving this Nation honorably throughout World War II until 1945. During this time, Mr. Hirsch served as a gunner's mate on the Coast Guard Patrol Frigate *Annapolis*. It was aboard that vessel in the American theater of operations that Mr. Hirsch was engaged in combat action against hostile enemy submarine forces.

In September 1945, Mr. Hirsch was also involved in a daring rescue while serving on the *Annapolis*. After the Steamship *Prince George* caught fire in Ketchikan, AK, several U.S. Coast Guard vessels responded to the incident, including the *Annapolis*. Mr. Hirsch was engaged in lifesaving and port clearance operations, further demonstrating his remarkable bravery.

Following his time in the Coast Guard, Mr. Hirsch continued his outstanding legacy of service. He joined the New York City Police Department and served that city honorably for over 20 years. Since 1976, Mr. Hirsch has resided in Bethlehem, CT, and we are proud he has chosen to call our great State home.

Mr. Hirsch's tireless service will be an enduring legacy. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Bob Hirsch on this milestone of his 100th birthday.●

### REMEMBERING JACK GRANEY

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jack Graney, Cleveland Indians player and broadcaster, as he is posthumously awarded the Ford C. Frick Award by the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 23, 2022.

Jack Graney was born on June 10, 1886, in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada, but his professional career on the baseball diamond began with the Cleveland Naps in 1908. Over his 14-year Major League career, Jack led the American League in walks during the 1917 and 1919 seasons and played in three World Series games, helping the Naps to victory in 1920. His daughter fondly remembers growing up on the road and